

1. A fireplace comprising:

an enclosure defining a chamber;

a support structure having an ember support surface, said support surface being disposed within the chamber;

a plurality of translucent artificial embers, wherein the translucent artificial embers are disposed upon but separable from said support surface; and

a light source positioned to pass light through at least a portion of the support structure to illuminate the translucent artificial embers.

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2. The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the support structure comprises: a raised floor positioned above a bottom panel of the enclosure; and an ember support bed coupled to the raised floor and forming said ember support

structure, wherein the translucent artificial embers are disposed on a top surface of the ember support bed.

- 3. The fireplace of claim 2, wherein the ember support bed comprises a translucent plate.
- 20 4. The fireplace of claim 2, wherein the ember support bed comprises a mesh screen.
 - 5. The fireplace of claim 2, wherein the ember support bed comprises a perforated plate.

- 6. The fireplace of claim 1, further comprising a gas burner positioned above the ember support surface to provide flames and heat upon combustion.
- 7. The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the light source is disposed within the chamber.

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- 8. The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the translucent artificial embers comprise fused silica particles.
- 9. The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the support structure defines at least one aperture through said ember support surface to deliver combustible gas to the chamber.
 - 10. The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the light source comprises components that withstand temperatures greater than 500 degrees Fahrenheit.
- 10 11. The fireplace of claim 10, wherein the light source comprises a halogen light.
 - 12. A fireplace comprising:

a combustion chamber enclosure, wherein the combustion chamber enclosure includes a support structure, said support structure being configured to support a plurality of loosely separable and at least partially translucent artificial embers; and

a light source arranged and configured relative to said support structure so as to illuminate said artificial embers when supported by said support structure.

- 13. The fireplace of claim 12, wherein the support structure defines at least one aperture to provide combustion air to the combustion chamber enclosure.
 - 14. The fireplace of claim 12, wherein the support structure defines at least one aperture to provide combustion gas to the combustion chamber enclosure.

15. A fireplace comprising:

an enclosure, wherein the enclosure includes a support structure, said support structure being configured to support a plurality of loosely separable and at least partially translucent artificial embers; and

a light source arranged and configured relative to said support structure so as to illuminate said artificial embers when supported by said support structure.

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- 16. The fireplace of claim 15, further comprising a colored plate disposed between the light source and the plurality of supported artificial embers to generate the color of glowing embers with the plurality of supported artificial embers.
- 17. The fireplace of claim 15, wherein light from said light source passes through at least a portion of said support structure.
- 18. The fireplace of claim 15, wherein the support structure comprises an embersupport bed for supporting said artificial embers.
 - 19. An apparatus for electrically simulating glowing embers within an enclosure of a fireplace, the apparatus comprising:

a support structure configured to be insertable with the enclosure and defining an ember support bed for supportably holding a plurality of translucent artificial embers;

a plurality of transfucent artificial embers, configured to be loosely supported by said ember support bed; and

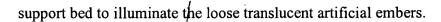
a light source arranged and configured to pass light through the ember support bed to illuminate the translucent artificial embers.

- 20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the translucent artificial embers comprise fused silica particles.
- 25 21. An apparatus for electrically simulating glowing embers within a fireplace, the apparatus comprising:

an ember support bed;

a plurality of translucent artificial embers, wherein the translucent artificial embers are individually arrangeable upon the ember support bed; and

a light source positioned to pass light through at least a portion of the ember



- 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the translucent artificial embers comprise fused silica particles.
- 23. An apparatus for electrically simulating glowing embers within a fireplace, the apparatus comprising:

means for loosely supporting a plurality of translucent artificial embers; and means for illuminating the plurality of translucent artificial embers.

24. A method for electrically simulating glowing embers within a fireplace, comprising:

providing an enclosure wherein the enclosure defines a chamber; disposing an ember support bed structure within the chamber;

arranging a plurality of translucent artificial embers on said ember support bed structure;

providing a light source to produce a light beam; and
passing said light beam through at least a portion of the artificial embers to
illuminate the translucent artificial embers.

- 25. The method of claim 24, further comprising, dusting a portion of the surfaces of the translucent artificial embers with paint.
- The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of passing said light beam
 through at least a portion of said ember support bed structure to illuminate said artificial embers.
 - 27. A method for electrically simulating glowing embers within a fireplace, comprising:

providing an enclosure, wherein the enclosure defines a chamber;

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disposing an ember support bed structure within the chamber to support a plurality of loosely separable and at least partially translucent artificial embers; and providing a light source to produce and pass a light beam through at least a portion of the artificial embers to illuminate the translucent artificial embers.